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OUTLINE TASKS OF COOPERATIVES

SIX-YEAR PLAN GOALS FOR COOPERATIVES -- Warsaw, Pracownik Spoldzielczy, Sep 50

Through the Six-Year Plan, Poland will become one of the highly industrialized countries in Europe. Thus, the plan has not only a national significance but also an international one.

The job of the ZZPS (Cooperative Workers' Trade Union), is to translate the guiding principles of the plan into concrete assignments for each section of the union.

Rural Cooperatives

The activities of CRS "Samopomoc Chlopska" (Central Agricultural Office, Peasant Self-Help Cooperative), cover a wide area of economic problems, and its tasks are unlike those of any state economic organization. The CRS must provide an economic link between workers and small- and medium-size farmers. This will be accomplished by a notable expansion of commodity exchange between villages and cities. In 1955, the CRS will bring to villages 150 percent more commodities than in 1949 by making more efficient and expanding its sales network; and by eliminating speculators from the rural sectors. The fundamental service facilities, such as bakeries, pork-processing firms, and flour mills, will be expanded in the rural areas. Additional investments in the existing processing plants will make their production highly mechanized. By the end of the Six-Year Plan, these basic industries will supply rural areas with all basic food commodities.

The tasks of the dairy cooperatives are as follows:

1. To satisfy in full the workers' demand for milk and eggs.
2. To purchase about 90 percent of producers' surplus commodities by a 20-30 percent expansion in the network of purchasing centers.

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3. To use production methods which will assure high-grade products with maximum efficiency in the use of raw materials, technical equipment, and labor.

In addition to the expansion of present processing facilities; dairy co-operatives will activate new dairies and plants for processing frozen eggs, and feathers.

Urban Cooperatives

Consumer cooperatives, together with state retail outlets, are to satisfy the demand of workers in cities and workers' developments. The functions of consumer cooperatives will cover: (1) retail trade; (2) local food processing; and (3) food services.

At present, the Union of Consumers' Cooperatives manages over 16,000 stores with grocery stores predominating (52 percent). Under the plan, the number of stores will be doubled. The plan envisages:

1. Greater expansion in the network of socialized trade outlets in areas now poorly covered.
2. Better distribution of stores in certain localities and expansion of the network in suburbs and workers' developments.
3. Greater specialization through specialty stores.
4. Improvement in technical equipment and store modernization.

Consumer cooperatives operate three kinds of processing plants: bakeries, sausage factories, and soda-water and beer-bottling plants. Cooperative bakeries now cover 50 percent of the urban demand for bakery products and will eventually cover all of it.

Food services have been under the supervision of consumer cooperatives since 1948. At present, the consumer cooperatives manage 901 public food services and 646 factory dining rooms. These figures will increase in 1955 to 1,532 public food services and 1,098 factory dining rooms. In 1955, there will be 487,321,000 meals served in public food services, compared to 58,270,000 in 1949, and 197,400 in factory dining rooms, compared to 34,261 in 1949.

Workers' cooperatives cover 13 basic branches of production and various services. It is planned that the 1955 production value will be, 1,545,000,000 zlotys, compared to 258 million in 1949 and 493 million planned in 1950.

There will be less emphasis on clothing (now 43 percent of the total production), leather, and textiles and more on metal, wood, and chemical products and services.

The Union of Workers' Cooperatives together with the Central Office of Manual Trades, the Central Office of Peasant Arts and Crafts, and the Central Office for Products of the Handicapped will create sound, socialist, small-scale industry based on the 500,000 persons still engaged in small private industry.

Between July 1948 and the end of 1949, employment in cooperatives grew from 292,000 to 430,000, an increase of 168,000 [sic] or 64 percent.

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The total number engaged in work competition in 1949 was 171,000 persons or nearly 50 percent of the total number of cooperative workers. Results of work competition were not completely satisfactory.

In cooperative organization, the central administrations are far removed from the production centers. They rely on poor statistical reporting and sometimes have insufficient grasp of the technical, financial, and economic problems of cooperatives. -- Jozef Pilat, vice president, ZG ZZPS (Main Administration, Cooperative Workers' Trade Union)

RURAL COOPERATIVES EXPAND -- Warsaw, Zycie Warszawy, 7 May 50

Rural cooperatives operate more than 20,890 retail outlets, thousands of different purchasing stations, 3,000 stores dealing in ~~construction materials~~ and fuel, 4,000 plants (including 1,400 flour mills), 1,400 bakeries, 1,200 slaughter houses, and 2,900 farm machine centers, having 4,100 village branches equipped with more than 20,000 various farm machines, not including a large number of tractors.

HANDICRAFT COOPERATIVES NOT POPULAR IN POLAND -- Munich, Slowo Katolickie, 29 Oct 50

The handicraft cooperatives, modeled after the Soviet artels, are not too popular in Poland. Up to now, 7,500 members have registered in these cooperatives, and 38,000 members in auxiliary cooperatives. In 1949 there were 300,000 persons employed in handicraft trades.

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